



File Code: 6540

Date: June 22, 2011

PROJECT FUNDING AVAILABLE

Applications due July 22, 2011

In October 2008, Congress reauthorized the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS) and extended provisions of Title II and Title III of the Act for four more years. This authorizes Resources Advisory Committees to meet and recommend projects to the U.S. Forest Service for fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

This letter is to advise you that the Missouri River RAC will have approximately \$180,000 in funding available for natural resource projects in Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Teton counties. Project proposals must be submitted no later than **July 22, 2011** to be considered for RAC funding.

The SRS law directs that funds be spent on projects that accomplish one or more of the following objectives: maintain or remove roads and trails; improve soil and forest ecosystem health; restore watersheds; improve habitat for wildlife and fish; control weeds; and reestablish native animals and plants. The Missouri River RAC favors projects that have community support and multiple benefits, low administrative costs, leverage RAC funding with in-kind services and cash-matching, and can help create and/or retain jobs.

While the deadline for project proposals is July 22, 2011, project proponents are encouraged to submit their proposals as soon as possible. The RAC members will meet on Tuesday, September 13 at 6 p.m. in the Helena National Forest office to review and evaluate project proposals. Project proponents are asked to attend the meeting and be prepared to answer questions on their proposals.

Projects may occur on private land within Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Teton counties, but must demonstrate a benefit to National Forest System lands and qualify under an array of federal environmental laws. Enclosed are proposal guidelines and project proposal forms. These forms are also available online at the Helena National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena>, click on "Resource Advisory Committee" in the left column.

Project proposals should be submitted electronically to RAC Coordinator/DFO Kathy Bushnell at kbushnell@fs.fed.us. Please contact Kathy with any questions or requests for more information.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Kevin Riordan*

KEVIN RIORDAN
Helena National Forest
Forest Supervisor

